

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
GALVESTON DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO: 3:18-CR-00024-1
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CRIMINAL
	)	
vs.	)	Galveston, Texas
	)	
JOHN DAVID KNOWLTON,	)	Thursday, June 13, 2019
	)	
Defendant.	)	(3:29 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.)

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

BEFORE THE HONORABLE GEORGE C. HANKS, JR.,  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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1                   **Galveston, Texas; Thursday, June 13, 2019; 3:29 p.m.**

2                   **(Call to order)**

3                   **THE COURT:** Please be seated, everyone.

4                   Welcome, everyone, to this pretrial hearing in Cause  
5 Number 3:18-CR-24-1, the *United States of America versus*  
6 *Mr. John David Knowlton*. If counsel could just approach the  
7 bench and introduce themselves to the Court and state the  
8 parties they represent, starting with the Government?

9                   **MS. FENELON:** Good afternoon, your Honor, Zahra  
10 Fenelon for the United States.

11                  **THE COURT:** Okay, counsel. And?

12                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** And Philip Gallagher for  
13 Mr. Knowlton, who is present.

14                  **THE COURT:** Great, thank you. Welcome, Mr. Knowlton.  
15 Mr. Knowlton, if you'd like to come forward, sir, since this --

16                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, sir, I'd like to address the  
17 Court if I may.

18                  **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

19                  **THE DEFENDANT:** What are you doing?

20                  **MR. SPEAKER:** Well if you approach, I'm coming up  
21 here.

22                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Why?

23                  **MR. SPEAKER:** Because I --

24                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** Mr. Knowlton, if you want to speak to  
25 the judge, --

1                   **THE COURT:** Yes, sir?

2                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay, so are we on the record, sir?

3                   **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

4                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay. I'm visiting this Court as a  
5 lawful person. There has been a mistake. I have been  
6 misidentified and as a political status and has been  
7 misrepresented to this Court. I am not acting in a capacity a  
8 United States citizen or a citizen of the United States. I am  
9 a Texan national and a State citizen. I am not subject to the  
10 jurisdiction of this Court and claim remedy and relief under  
11 Federal law, Title 50, Appendix 7(c) and (e). I wish my cargo  
12 and vessel which is permanently domiciled on the land and soil  
13 of Texas to be released and all charges against them to be  
14 eliminated. I wish a prosecutor's bid bond and performance  
15 bond to be brought forward and paid to me as damage for the  
16 false arrest in determining my vessel in violation of my  
17 Article Four guarantees under the Constitution of the United  
18 States. I would like to see those bonds, please, the bid bond  
19 and performance bond.

20                   **THE COURT:** Okay. Respectfully, sir, I understand  
21 your argument. But you're under the jurisdiction of the Court.  
22 Federal charges have been brought against you. I know you  
23 don't agree with --

24                   **THE DEFENDANT:** So what jurisdiction is that, sir?

25                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** You should let --

1                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Because --

2                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** Please let the judge finish his  
3 sentence.

4                   **THE COURT:** Okay, no, I -- it's okay, sir, I  
5 understand. I mean, I understand that you object to the  
6 Court's jurisdiction. But respectfully the Court has  
7 jurisdiction over you in this matter and it's going to proceed.  
8 I -- you've made your statement on the record. It's a matter  
9 of the record in this case. But my job and the job of the  
10 prosecution and defense counsel are to proceed with defending  
11 you or prosecuting you on the charges that have been brought  
12 against you.

13                  **THE DEFENDANT:** So the Court is trying to rush to  
14 judgment then.

15                  **THE COURT:** No, sir. We're going to proceed on the  
16 charges that have been brought against you in this case. It's  
17 set for trial on Monday. And I'm going to proceed with the  
18 trial on Monday. And I know you object to the Court's  
19 jurisdiction --

20                  **THE DEFENDANT:** But as jurisdiction on your own --  
21 excuse me, I'm sorry.

22                  **THE COURT:** Oh, no, no, sir. But you'll have an  
23 opportunity to appeal that issue to the Fifth Circuit and then  
24 ultimately to the U. S. Supreme Court. But, you know, I've got  
25 to follow the law as it is before me. The law is there's been

1 an indictment brought against you. I have to proceed under the  
2 indictment. Since it's not been dismissed, I have to proceed  
3 under that indictment. And once the proceedings are over, you  
4 have the right to appeal to the Fifth Circuit --

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** But who is bringing the indictment,  
6 sir?

7           **THE COURT:** The United States of America.

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** Who is the United States of America?

9           **THE COURT:** The Federal government. I'm not sure, I  
10 don't understand your question. I'm sorry.

11          **THE DEFENDANT:** Well usually it's a person, a living,  
12 breathing person that will bring an indictment and make a  
13 charge against someone.

14          **THE COURT:** Okay.

15          **THE DEFENDANT:** Who is that?

16          **THE COURT:** I know that there are witnesses that have  
17 provided testimony to support the indictment. That's what the  
18 trial is about. I mean, we're going to have a trial. You get  
19 to hear the witnesses that are coming forward against you as to  
20 what crimes you allegedly committed, and the Court's going to  
21 adjudicate those. And then after we're done, if you still  
22 wish, and I know you do, to challenge the Court's jurisdiction,  
23 you'll have an opportunity to do that.

24          **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, sir, on your own website you  
25 state that jurisdiction must be proven on the record. So

1 before anything can happen, may I see that?

2           **THE COURT:** Okay.

3           **THE DEFENDANT:** It's on your website --

4           **THE COURT:** Yeah.

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** -- what is required for trial and  
6 everything else, and in there it specifically states that proof  
7 of jurisdiction must be on the record. I am asking to see that  
8 jurisdiction, sir.

9           **THE COURT:** I don't know what to tell you other than  
10 the fact that there is an indictment that's been filed --

11          **THE DEFENDANT:** Well we can't go forward until  
12 jurisdiction is proven because that would be a lack of  
13 jurisdiction, and the Supreme Court has already held against it  
14 and ruled against it.

15          **THE COURT:** I know --

16          **THE DEFENDANT:** The Court has no authority to decide  
17 its own jurisdiction.

18          **THE COURT:** I'm going to move forward with the  
19 indictment. And then if you wish to continue to object to the  
20 Court's jurisdiction, you'll have to do it either on appeal or  
21 at the end of the trial. But I'm going forward. And I --

22          **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay, sir, I do not consent to it.

23          **THE COURT:** Okay.

24          **THE DEFENDANT:** But I would also like to have a full  
25 copy of the voice recordings and the transcripts of this for my

1 appeal.

2           **THE COURT:** Yes, sir, they will be available for you.

3 And, Mr. Gallagher, you know how to --

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, he's fired.

5           **THE COURT:** Okay.

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** Or are you telling me I can't fire  
7 him, too?

8           **THE COURT:** Okay, --

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** I mean, he's brought up evidence. He  
10 said they got something from the FBI. I didn't know the FBI  
11 was even involved in this.

12          **THE COURT:** Okay, so, Mr. Gallagher, are you no  
13 longer representing or have you been --

14          **MR. GALLAGHER:** So may -- two things.

15          **THE COURT:** Okay.

16          **MR. GALLAGHER:** First, when you were initially  
17 asking, yes, of course, if we're appointed to represent him on  
18 appeal, Mr. Knowlton on appeal, we will make arrangements to  
19 order the transcript and prepare that and put that in the  
20 Court's record.

21          Onto the second point, I only know what Mr. Knowlton  
22 has said. Obviously if he wishes to proceed on his own or to  
23 hire his own counsel, that's his right. And so I would ask  
24 that the Court clarify which of those he wishes to do. And if  
25 he wishes to proceed pro se, to conduct the, I'm sorry, the

1 Faretta colloquy that I'm sure is in your bench book --

2           **THE COURT:** Right.

3           **MR. GALLAGHER:** -- to effect that and then allow him  
4 to proceed pro se should he show the Court that that is in fact  
5 a knowing waiver of his right to counsel, your Honor.

6           **THE COURT:** Okay. So, Mr. Knowlton, do you wish to  
7 proceed pro se in this case and fire Mr. Gallagher?

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir. Also, I would like it on  
9 the record, because of your *Black's Law Dictionary* satanic book  
10 of changed words and everything like that, if I don't  
11 understand some word, I will question because the dictionary is  
12 what we the people use. You all use the *Black's Law Dictionary*  
13 which changes the words of everything else. So I want to  
14 note -- I want that noted.

15           **THE COURT:** Yes, sir, it is noted. I'm just going to  
16 take just a brief recess, Mr. Gallagher, counsel, and I'll be  
17 right back. I want to take a look at the bench book charge and  
18 I also want to take a look at the indictment in this case so --

19           **MR. GALLAGHER:** May I ask one quick question?

20           **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

21           **MR. GALLAGHER:** And obviously that's no objection,  
22 your Honor. Would it be -- I -- like I said, I think the  
23 Faretta colloquy is in your bench book.

24           **THE COURT:** It is.

25           **MR. GALLAGHER:** Okay. I just --

1                   **THE COURT:** (Indiscernible)

2                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** -- wanted to make sure. If it would  
3 be helpful, I could ask someone to email me something but,  
4 okay.

5                   **THE COURT:** Oh, no, it's right here.

6                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** Then, sorry.

7                   **THE COURT:** So I'm going to -- I just want to take a  
8 look at it. But in order for me to do that, I want to make  
9 sure I've got all the information regarding the indictment.

10                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** Of course, okay.

11                  **THE COURT:** So (indiscernible)

12                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Sir?

13                  **THE COURT:** Oh, I'm sorry, yes, sir.

14                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Sorry, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to --

15                  **THE COURT:** Oh, no, no, that's --

16                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I would still like to see the bid  
17 bond and the performance bond, her license from the State or  
18 the Supreme Court, whoever license them, not a bar card. And  
19 also the Foreign Agents Registry Act (sic).

20                  **THE COURT:** Okay, for whom?

21                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Her.

22                  **THE COURT:** Okay, for -- okay.

23                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Because she is foreign to me.

24                  **THE COURT:** Okay. Give me about maybe ten minutes.  
25 I'll be right back.

1                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** Thank you, your Honor.

2                   **MS. FENELON:** Thank you, your Honor.

3                   **MARSHAL:** All rise.

4                   **(Recess taken from 3:37 p.m. to 3:59 p.m.)**

5                   **MARSHAL:** All rise.

6                   **THE COURT:** Please be seated, everyone. If counsel  
7 and Mr. Knowlton, if you can please approach. I reviewed your  
8 request, Mr. Knowlton, and the Court's making the following  
9 findings before we get started. I find that I do have  
10 jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to my authority as a  
11 Federal judge and the indictment that's been brought before the  
12 Court. I also find that there is no need for a performance  
13 bond in this case. I understand your arguments but the Court  
14 finds that there is no need for a performance bond in this  
15 case. And there's also no need to have counsel for the  
16 Government register as a foreign agent. If I'm wrong, you can  
17 take those issues up with the Fifth Circuit and the Supreme  
18 Court. But I'm proceeding on the basis of having jurisdiction  
19 in this case by my authority as a Federal District Judge and  
20 the indictment that's been presented before me. And I  
21 understand that you don't agree to that.

22                   The next thing I need to do is talk to you about your  
23 decision to fire Mr. Gallagher as your counsel in this case.  
24 You do have a constitutional right for self-representation.  
25 There's no question about that. However, before you waive your

1 right to a counsel in this case, I've got to make sure that  
2 that waiver is knowing and voluntary, and I need to ask you a  
3 series of questions under oath. So if you could, raise your  
4 right hand, sir.

5 (Defendant sworn)

6 THE COURT: Okay, Mr. Knowlton, have you ever studied  
7 law before?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Have you ever represented yourself  
10 in a criminal action before?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Okay, and can you tell me a little bit  
13 about that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Well, that was the fight that I was  
15 having with the State --

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 THE DEFENDANT: -- and the State basically gave up  
18 and turned it over to you all because they were losing.

19 THE COURT: Okay. So in the State Court proceeding,  
20 you were -- you represented yourself.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And in this case, do you  
23 understand that you've been charged with two counts in the  
24 indictment; the first count is Count One, receipt of child  
25 pornography in violation of 18 USC, Sections 2252A(a)(2)(B) and

1 2252A(b)(1), and Count Two is for possession of child  
2 pornography in violation of 18 USC, Section 2252A(5)(B) and  
3 2252A(b)(2)? Do you understand that you've been charged -- I  
4 know you don't agree with the charges but do you understand  
5 that you've been charged in this case under those counts?

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

7           **THE COURT:** And you understand that the penalty for  
8 Count One, if you are found guilty, is not less than five years  
9 and not more than 20 years in prison, up to a \$250,000 fine,  
10 supervised release for any term of years not less than five  
11 years up to life, and a \$100 special assessment, and then a  
12 \$500 special assessment for the Justice For Victims Trafficking  
13 Act of 2015; do you understand that if you are found guilty on  
14 Count One, this is the maximum penalty available?

15           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

16           **THE COURT:** Okay. And then with respect to Count  
17 Two, you understand that if you're found guilty with respect to  
18 Count Two, you face up to ten years in prison, up to a \$250,000  
19 fine, supervised release for any term of years not less than  
20 five years up to life, a \$100 special assessment, and a \$500  
21 special assessment under the Justice For Victims Trafficking  
22 Act of 2015; do you understand that if you plead guilty -- or  
23 if you are found guilty on Count Two, that is your potential  
24 penalty?

25           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

1                   **THE COURT:** Okay. And do you understand also that  
2 given the nature of these crimes, if you are found guilty, you  
3 may have to register as a sex offender in the State of Texas?

4                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

5                   **THE COURT:** Okay. Do you understand that if you're  
6 found guilty of more than one of these crimes, this Court can  
7 order that the sentence be served consecutively, that is one  
8 after another; you understand that?

9                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

10                  **THE COURT:** Okay. And do you understand that there  
11 are advisory sentencing guidelines that may affect your  
12 sentence if you are found guilty?

13                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

14                  **THE COURT:** Okay. And do you understand that if you  
15 represent yourself, you are on your own, I cannot tell you or  
16 even advise you how you should begin to try your case? That  
17 is, if you reject Mr. Gallagher as your lawyer, you're on your  
18 own with respect to legal representation. I can't advise you  
19 or give you any advice on how to proceed.

20                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand.

21                  **THE COURT:** Okay. And are you familiar with or have  
22 reviewed the Federal Rules of Evidence?

23                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I've glanced at some but I'm still  
24 looking over a couple questions I have.

25                  **THE COURT:** Okay. Do you understand that the Rules

1 of Evidence govern what evidence may or may not be introduced  
2 at trial, and that in representing yourself, you must abide by  
3 those very technical rules, and that they will not be relaxed  
4 for your benefit?

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

6           **THE COURT:** Okay. And are you familiar with the  
7 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or have you -- or read  
8 them?

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** I've glanced at them.

10          **THE COURT:** Okay, and do you understand that those  
11 rules govern the way a criminal action is to be tried in  
12 Federal Court and that you will be bound by those rules, and  
13 they will not be relaxed for your benefit if you decide to  
14 proceed on your own?

15          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

16          **THE COURT:** Mr. Knowlton, I must advise you that in  
17 my opinion as a judicial officer, a trained lawyer would defend  
18 yourself far better than you would defend yourself in this case  
19 because of the rules that you have to comply with in order to  
20 bring a case. I think that it would be unwise for you to try  
21 to represent yourself. And since you've not defended yourself  
22 in a Federal Court and you're not familiar with this Court's  
23 criminal procedure, I strongly urge you not to represent  
24 yourself in this case. But you have a constitutional right to  
25 do so. It's just that without legal training, without a

1 thorough knowledge of the Rules of Evidence, you might not be  
2 able to represent yourself as well as a lawyer trained to do  
3 so; do you understand that?

4                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

5                   **THE COURT:** Okay. And Mr. Gallagher has appeared  
6 before me over the last nine years, a competent attorney, and I  
7 think that he would be better trained to represent you in this  
8 case. But it's your decision my understanding is to fire him  
9 as your lawyer.

10                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

11                  **THE COURT:** Okay. And this decision is entirely  
12 voluntary, nobody has threatened you or forced you to make this  
13 decision.

14                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Oh, no.

15                  **THE COURT:** Okay. In light of your answers, sir, I  
16 find that you have knowingly and voluntarily waived your right  
17 to counsel and I will therefore permit you to represent  
18 yourself in this case. However, Mr. Gallagher, I'm going to  
19 appoint you as advisory counsel in this case, that I'm ordering  
20 you to stand by in case Mr. Knowlton decides to change his mind  
21 to represent him in this matter. The nature of these charges  
22 and the seriousness of these charges I truly believe that  
23 counsel is necessary to defend Mr. Knowlton in this case. But  
24 he's got a constitutional right to waive counsel, and the Court  
25 respects that. But I'm ordering you nevertheless to be

1 available.

2           **MR. GALLAGHER:** Yes, your Honor.

3           **THE COURT:** So, Mr. Knowlton and counsel, you're  
4 going to proceed on your own. We're set for trial on Monday at  
5 8:30. I need all of you to be here at 8:30. The jury's going  
6 to be in a little -- oh, my understanding is you want a jury  
7 trial.

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, we were talking about a bench  
9 trial.

10          **THE COURT:** Okay.

11          **THE DEFENDANT:** But there's some other discovery  
12 stuff that I would still like to have.

13          **THE COURT:** Okay, let's talk about any --

14          **THE DEFENDANT:** (Indiscernible)

15          **THE COURT:** -- outstanding motions or --

16          **THE DEFENDANT:** Say again.

17          **THE COURT:** Oh, any outstanding motions or discovery  
18 that's needed, let's talk about that.

19          **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay. I need to put in -- I've got a  
20 couple things that I wanted to ask the Court and everything  
21 like that for discovery, --

22          **THE COURT:** Okay.

23          **THE DEFENDANT:** -- and it would take me at least two  
24 days to get that typed up. I can get it over the weekend. But  
25 how do you enter into your system here? Do I give it to --

1 there's not a clerk to hand it to, is there?

2           **THE COURT:** Yeah, you have to file it --

3           **THE DEFENDANT:** Electronically. And I heard you had  
4 to have permission for that.

5           **THE COURT:** Right. You're going to have manually  
6 file it. That is whatever you have, you'll have to bring it to  
7 the court clerk and the court clerk will file it and then give  
8 me a copy. Unfortunately, the court rules don't allow pro se  
9 litigants to file their own documents in terms of using CM/ECF,  
10 which is our computer system, because we've had problems in the  
11 past. So, pro se litigants, respectfully you've got to  
12 actually physically come down and file it. So when -- I'm  
13 sorry.

14           **MR. GALLAGHER:** May I make a suggestion, your Honor?

15           **THE COURT:** Oh, yes.

16           **MR. GALLAGHER:** There's a similar case I had, and  
17 what another judge had asked is that we file things for the pro  
18 se litigant which obviously we can do as long as it's on the  
19 understanding that --

20           **THE COURT:** You're not representing --

21           **MR. GALLAGHER:** Right, so I'm not signing it, right,  
22 so I'm not --

23           **THE COURT:** (Indiscernible)

24           **MR. GALLAGHER:** -- reviewing things to determine  
25 whether or not you -- right, I wouldn't file something --

1                   **THE COURT:** Right.

2                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** -- that I wouldn't stand behind. But  
3 in this case, I'm just literally helping to get something  
4 before the Court. And so it's Mr. Knowlton -- if it's fine  
5 with the Court, he could email things to me and I would file  
6 them under my ECF as a -- but as a -- for him immediately.

7                   **THE DEFENDANT:** I would have no problem with that to  
8 make sure that he is not liable for anything.

9                   **THE COURT:** Okay, that actually, Mr. Knowlton, works  
10 out really well. Basically a lot -- giving it to Mr. Gallagher  
11 and then Mr. Gallagher will get it on file. But also what's  
12 going to happen is that you need to serve a copy on the U. S.  
13 Attorney. So, Mr. Gallagher, can you make sure that when you  
14 get it, you also send it to the U. S. Attorney's --

15                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** Right. Well, and that also happens  
16 automatically with the electronic filing. It goes directly to  
17 counsel of record.

18                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

19                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** But I can make sure --

20                  **MS. FENELON:** Your Honor, the only thing is we are  
21 now, you know, this is Thursday before trial that's set for  
22 Monday. And to be able to -- and to get discovery over the  
23 weekend when we begin on Monday the 17th, it's pretty late in  
24 the game to be able to get reciprocal discovery, for us to do  
25 what we would need to in order to be able to understand or talk

1 to any of their witnesses or look at the documentation that  
2 Mr. Knowlton's going to provide if we are not going to be  
3 getting it until Saturday or Sunday, one or two days before  
4 trial. So it is pretty late.

5           **THE COURT:** Right. I guess what I need to find out  
6 is what documents are you requesting and have these documents  
7 been requested before now? Because under the Court's rules,  
8 you know, motions within, you know, seven days of trial, the  
9 Court disfavors those greatly because the problem is the  
10 parties don't have an opportunity to adequately respond. So  
11 have these requests been made earlier? And if they've not been  
12 made earlier, why not? And --

13           **THE DEFENDANT:** No, sir. This is the first time I've  
14 actually come into this courtroom. If you -- you might not  
15 remember when it was first scheduled for a couple weeks ago and  
16 I didn't know that the date had changed. And that's why I  
17 asked you, I don't know if you remember when I came, --

18           **THE COURT:** (Indiscernible)

19           **THE DEFENDANT:** -- what about me. I was supposed to  
20 be here.

21           **THE COURT:** Right.

22           **THE DEFENDANT:** And then the next day I got the  
23 letter from him stating that it had been postponed until today.

24           **THE COURT:** Okay.

25           **THE DEFENDANT:** So if the -- a family issue that

1 Mr. Gallagher had, we probably would have had time then to get  
2 everything in there, but he had that family emergency that he  
3 had to take care of and that's why it was postponed.

4           **THE COURT:** I mean, did you make a request for these  
5 documents through Mr. Gallagher from the Court or from the U.  
6 S. Attorneys? I mean, what document -- I guess, first of all,  
7 what documents are you talking about?

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, I have a list at the house,  
9 sir. I'm sorry I did not bring it.

10          **THE COURT:** Okay. So what's the nature of -- I mean,  
11 what's the nature of what are we talking about?

12          **THE DEFENDANT:** I would like to have -- one of the  
13 things that I can remember off the top of my head is I would  
14 like to see their oath of office and their bonds.

15          **THE COURT:** Okay, that's respectfully irrelevant to -  
16 - I mean, I know that you believe it is but that's irrelevant  
17 to the charges that are being brought against you. If I'm  
18 wrong, --

19          **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, if --

20          **THE COURT:** -- then you can bring those up before the  
21 Fifth Circuit so --

22          **THE DEFENDANT:** If she's not -- doesn't have status  
23 of standing to bring something into court, then how do I know?

24          **THE COURT:** Counsel, you're with the United States  
25 Attorney's Office, right?

1                   **MS. FENELON:** I am, your Honor.

2                   **THE COURT:** Okay. And you're boss is the United  
3 States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, Mr. Ryan  
4 Patrick; is that correct?

5                   **MS. FENELON:** Yes, your Honor.

6                   **THE COURT:** Okay. She is an officer of the Court.  
7 She's representing that she is a duly representative of the U.  
8 S. Attorney in this district so I'm going to find that she's  
9 authorized to proceed in this matter. I understand you don't  
10 agree with that but I believe that to be the case. So is there  
11 any other documents that you think that you need to get ready  
12 for trial related to the charges that are being brought against  
13 you? And I know that you believe that --

14                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir. I would like to see the  
15 warrant.

16                  **THE COURT:** Okay. I think we have the warrant.

17                  **THE DEFENDANT:** No, I'm talking the warrant for the  
18 other surveillance that was done.

19                  **THE COURT:** Okay, what other surveillance? I mean  
20 (indiscernible) okay, sure.

21                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Excuse me, sir, one moment.

22                  **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

23                  (**Pause**)

24                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I apologize, your Honor.

25                  **THE COURT:** Oh, no, take your time, sir.

1                   **(Defendant/counsel confer)**

2                   **THE DEFENDANT:** So, sir, on --

3                   **THE COURT:** Oh, I don't have it but it -- you can  
4 tell me.

5                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay. In an instant investigation on  
6 February 6th, 2016, your affiant was conducting an online p2p  
7 child porn inquiry and identified target IP address 73 blah,  
8 blah, blah, I'm not going to go into that, referring to as  
9 target IP sharing multiple times -- sharing multiple in excess  
10 of ten files on eDonkey and p2p networks, okay.

11                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

12                  **THE DEFENDANT:** And then I guess he was network  
13 activity on the 28th of November, 2015, and January 16th, 2016.

14                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

15                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay. Now, Mr. Gallagher has said  
16 that, you know, didn't really matter. But I would like to see  
17 the warrant that said that they can surveil we the people.

18                  **THE COURT:** What do you mean? That -- I'm lost, I'm  
19 sorry. Their -- and --

20                  **THE DEFENDANT:** They're saying they are doing a  
21 check --

22                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

23                  **THE DEFENDANT:** -- on the networks and everything  
24 like that, and they identify my IP address.

25                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

1                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay.

2                   **THE COURT:** Pursuant to a warrant.

3                   **THE DEFENDANT:** No.

4                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

5                   **THE DEFENDANT:** This was an affidavit to get a  
6 warrant to search the house.

7                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

8                   **THE DEFENDANT:** So I would like to see the warrant  
9 that allowed them to spy on us, on me.

10                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

11                  **THE DEFENDANT:** On anybody really. And on February  
12 6th, which the other judge -- and I don't remember his name and  
13 no disrespect, sir, --

14                  **THE COURT:** (Indiscernible)

15                  **THE DEFENDANT:** -- but he took my passport. If I was  
16 going to leave the country, I'd have left a long time ago. In  
17 my passport, I was out of the country on February 6th.

18                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

19                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I had been out of the country. So I  
20 would like to see the warrant that gave them the authority to  
21 do the things, to do their monitoring and everything.

22                  **THE COURT:** Okay. I'm going to ask the U. S.  
23 Attorney --

24                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I've --

25                  **THE COURT:** Okay, first, on that issue, --

1                   **MS. FENELON:** May I respond, your Honor?

2                   **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am.

3                   **MS. FENELON:** In regards to what Mr. Knowlton's  
4 talking about, this is an open peer-to-peer network that any  
5 individual can get onto and be able to go and see the files  
6 that may be sharable. There is no search warrant or any type  
7 of warrant that's necessary in order to do that. And as far as  
8 being able to find out or ascertain the facts surrounding that  
9 circumstance, I believe that cross examination would allow him  
10 to do so. And as we have stated in our filing, Agent Lee  
11 Erickson (phonetic) will be here to testify in regards to the  
12 stuff that he took as far as his undercover session on the  
13 peer-to-peer network eDonkey or eMule.

14                  **THE COURT:** Okay. So what the Government says is the  
15 evidence they're going to produce is that the information was  
16 public knowledge, I mean in the public realm and that there was  
17 no search warrant needed. So there is no search warrant to be  
18 turned over.

19                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay.

20                  **THE COURT:** So about --

21                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I mean, --

22                  **THE COURT:** But I want to get through all your lists  
23 as best we can so --

24                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, I don't have my list in front  
25 of me, your Honor, I'm sorry.

1                   **THE COURT:** Okay, well, we've got to talk about it  
2 because we're set for trial on Monday so, you know, if it's  
3 really, really important, then we need to talk about it now.

4                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Well it is really, really important  
5 but I didn't know that the Court was going to rush to judgment  
6 so fast.

7                   **THE COURT:** I'm not rushing --

8                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Trying to --

9                   **THE COURT:** -- to judgment.

10                  **THE DEFENDANT:** -- get into this.

11                  **THE COURT:** I'm not rushing to judgment. We're set  
12 for trial on Monday.

13                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I understand that.

14                  **THE COURT:** You know, if there are outstanding  
15 documents or discovery that's needed to get ready for trial, we  
16 should have been talking about that a long time ago; not now.  
17 But I'm willing to take the time now to go through and see if  
18 there's any documents. I mean, if it's really important, then  
19 you should know what they are. And if you do, then let's talk  
20 about them; because so far the documents you've talked about  
21 and things you want either don't exist or are not necessary.

22                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, in one of his statements that  
23 he had, they were using a special software.

24                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

25                  **THE DEFENDANT:** So what is the special software that

1 was -- I believe it was the quote -- I'm -- it was pretty close  
2 to a special software designed specifically for law enforcement  
3 and everything like that.

4           **THE COURT:** Okay.

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** So I asked for that.

6           **THE COURT:** When did you ask for it?

7           **THE DEFENDANT:** I asked that from the other court.

8           **THE COURT:** Okay.

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** And I got a letter back from the DHS  
10 saying they don't give that unless public -- they don't give  
11 out any other information except what's public knowledge.

12           **THE COURT:** Okay. What other court; is this State  
13 Court or --

14           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

15           **THE COURT:** State Court, okay.

16           **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm sorry, I feel that you might be  
17 at a disadvantage here and why I am, and no disrespect, kind of  
18 jumping back a little bit, sir.

19           **THE COURT:** Okay.

20           **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay, this has been going on for  
21 three years, okay? And it was like all of a sudden, oh, it's  
22 got to be moved to Federal because the State lost. And I would  
23 also ask after out of the light of what's going on in  
24 Washington and everything like that and the illegal spying and  
25 everything like that, I would ask for DHS's, Galveston Police,

1 the DA's office over there, I would like all their records. I  
2 want emails, I want text messages, any recordings, and notes  
3 they took because it was like a concerted effort to push this  
4 over to Federal and then automatically get me into trial just  
5 as fast as possible. And Mr. Gallagher, I can't defend you, I  
6 don't have an opening statement, da ta da, da, you know, you  
7 need to take a plea, you have to take a plea, okay? This is a  
8 rush to judgment. This is basically a -- I wouldn't say a  
9 kangaroo court but they are really trying real hard to get rid  
10 of me because even if one-tenth of what I say and what I'm  
11 griping about is true, every case that Mr. Erickson and all  
12 that little Homeland Security and Mr. Gross (phonetic) who had  
13 no training whatsoever, all their cases get opened up and they  
14 have to be reviewed.

15                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

16                   **THE DEFENDANT:** And that is what the problem is.  
17 That's why I'm being railroaded because the best way to shut it  
18 down is to put me in jail and then they're through with it.

19                   **THE COURT:** Okay. Well, I'm not trying to rush you  
20 to jail, that's the first thing. I want to make sure that you  
21 have an opportunity to defend yourself --

22                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, when I'm dealing with everybody  
23 and the -- with the weight of the Federal government, okay, you  
24 know, you read in the paper, Houston is one of the largest  
25 trafficking areas in the -- one of the fourth largest or

1 whatever it is trafficking areas in the nation. But you sure  
2 don't hear anybody getting arrested for it so I wonder who's  
3 actually running it.

4           **THE COURT:** Yeah, I --

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** I mean, that doesn't -- that didn't  
6 affect my case or anything like that, okay, but the illegal  
7 acts by them puts a stain on them and all their cases. Just  
8 like they lied on an affidavit saying that they bought this  
9 drug from them and then they go in there and do a police raid  
10 and they kill the two people in there. Now, all of his cases  
11 that that detective has worked on are being reviewed. And a  
12 lot of people are getting out and everything else; whether  
13 they're guilty or innocent, I don't know.

14           **THE COURT:** Well, I know that particular case you're  
15 referring to, but I'm focused on this case. And if there's  
16 evidence in this case that you know of that there was some  
17 misbehavior or the parties or the Government didn't follow the  
18 law, I need to know that. And that's what I'm focused on. I  
19 can't correct the other things going on outside this case. I  
20 don't know what happened in other cases. That's not before me.  
21 But what I have before me is your case with these allegations  
22 and this indictment. If there are allegations that the  
23 Government didn't do something right, I need to know about that  
24 and I need to address that with the U. S. Attorneys.

25           **THE DEFENDANT:** Well that's what I've been trying to

1 bring up, your Honor, and it's -- we're still having court on  
2 Monday, okay? It's like is it legal or unlawful for the  
3 Government to enter private property?

4           **THE COURT:** Okay.

5           **THE DEFENDANT:** Simple question. I mean, very simple  
6 to answer because my property that I live on, my neighborhood,  
7 it is all private property. It says in the deeds at the thing.  
8 The roads do not belong to the City of Lamar. That is private  
9 property.

10          **THE COURT:** Okay, but, I mean, so what -- I don't  
11 understand your argument that --

12          **THE DEFENDANT:** (Indiscernible) did you have a  
13 warrant to come in there? Nobody is going to stand up for my  
14 rights, sir.

15          **THE COURT:** Okay, but did they -- so you're arguing  
16 that they did not have a warrant to seize what they seized? I  
17 mean, I'm just trying to get at what --

18          **THE DEFENDANT:** They didn't have a warrant to enter  
19 my property or enter anybody else's that lives there in that  
20 community's property.

21          **THE COURT:** Okay.

22          **THE DEFENDANT:** They were trespassing.

23          **THE COURT:** Okay. Is -- from the U. S. Attorney's  
24 position (indiscernible) --

25          **MS. FENELON:** Your Honor, there -- I apologize.

1                   **THE COURT:** Oh, I'm sorry, on the issue of a, you  
2 know, warrantless search or warrantless seizure.

3                   **MS. FENELON:** Your Honor, there was a search warrant.  
4 When both detectives and agents came to Mr. Knowlton's home in  
5 order to search the home and to seize evidence, there was a  
6 warrant that was signed.

7                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

8                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir, I don't deny that.

9                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

10                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm not denying that.

11                  **THE COURT:** Then --

12                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm saying to get there.

13                  **THE COURT:** (Indiscernible)

14                  **THE DEFENDANT:** How they got there.

15                  **THE COURT:** So they had a warrant to search your  
16 house but the warrant didn't extend to the driveway or the  
17 roads to get there?

18                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Does it apply to everyone else that  
19 lives there that owns the streets? The -- okay, --

20                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

21                  **THE DEFENDANT:** -- where I live, the streets are  
22 private property. It's actually in my deed. I own half the  
23 street, people across the street own the other half.

24                  **THE COURT:** Okay.

25                  **THE DEFENDANT:** I own the water in the back to the

1 center; the other people own the other (indiscernible) the  
2 whole thing, --

3           **THE COURT:** Okay.

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** -- okay. You're allowed in there  
5 actually when we first moved in because the police do not have  
6 jurisdiction in there because it is private property. We could  
7 ride our golf carts and you can drink your beer and they can't  
8 say a thing to you because it's all private property.

9           **THE COURT:** Okay, then --

10          **THE DEFENDANT:** To be able to see my house and  
11 surveil my house, take pictures of it and everything else, you  
12 would have to drive in to there. You cannot see it from a  
13 public road. It's not a public road, it's a private road, and  
14 it's listed as such with signs.

15          **THE COURT:** And I'm still trying to figure out how  
16 this relates to your argument. So you're arguing that the  
17 Government didn't have authority to get to your house --

18          **THE DEFENDANT:** That's right.

19          **THE COURT:** -- because they were on private property.

20          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

21          **THE COURT:** Okay.

22          **THE DEFENDANT:** There -- sir, --

23          **THE COURT:** Okay, but I get that but the problem then  
24 is, you know, what's the discovery -- I mean, so that's your  
25 argument. What's the discovery that you are looking for that

1 from the Government that you don't -- the belief that you have?  
2 I mean, you know it's private property, you know how to make  
3 the argument; what do you need from the Government? I mean, --

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** I want to know -- I would like to  
5 know if there was one.

6           **THE COURT:** Well, he -- she says from the U. S.  
7 Attorney, there was a warrant. They exercised a warrant to get  
8 on the property. And do you not have a copy of that warrant?  
9 Well, you said you acknowledged the warrant existed so --

10          **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes.

11          **THE COURT:** -- you just don't agree that it gives  
12 you -- gives them authority to cross your property.

13          **THE DEFENDANT:** Other people's property.

14          **THE COURT:** All right, and that's a legal argument so  
15 you make that argument at trial. But what is it that you want  
16 for discovery?

17          **THE DEFENDANT:** (No audible response)

18          **THE COURT:** I mean, you've got every -- it sounds  
19 like you've got everything you need to make the argument  
20 against the Government that they were trespassing or the  
21 warrant wasn't a valid warrant. I mean, you've got everything  
22 in your mind that you need to argue it so what do you need from  
23 them?

24          **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, --

25          **THE COURT:** I'm not trying to rush you to trial. I'm

1 just trying to figure out what is it that you need me to get  
2 from them or talk to them about getting to you so that you can  
3 be ready to defend yourself?

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** Well, it's almost like you can't  
5 defend yourself.

6           **THE COURT:** Well, --

7           **THE DEFENDANT:** Because the laws don't apply to  
8 everyone equally.

9           **THE COURT:** Okay.

10          **THE DEFENDANT:** Any defect, and I -- and what I  
11 understood was any defect in an affidavit, anything, one little  
12 thing that's wrong in there, that affidavit then he has  
13 committed perjury.

14          **THE COURT:** Well that's an argument you got to make  
15 at trial before the Court and then the Court rules on that  
16 issue and then either goes forward or not. But the immediate  
17 question was you were saying there are all these documents and  
18 things that you said that you needed from the Government and I  
19 wanted to make sure that you got those. And I'm not trying to  
20 rush this case to trial. I'm not. But I'm not going to hold  
21 up the trial for things that you don't even really -- you're  
22 not really clear on what it is that they need to provide to  
23 you. So far I've heard legal argument, and those legal  
24 arguments can be resolved with briefing before trial. I mean,  
25 you made the argument before the start of trial, I can hear the

1 evidence one way or the other, and then make the decision. But  
2 there's nothing -- I don't see what's holding this case up from  
3 trial. I'm still not there.

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** Well I also still wanted a  
5 clarification on your jurisdiction.

6           **THE COURT:** Yeah.

7           **THE DEFENDANT:** Territorial jurisdiction and personal  
8 jurisdiction and everything like that.

9           **THE COURT:** Yeah, I'm --

10          **THE DEFENDANT:** (Indiscernible) have something  
11 written up for it but --

12          **THE COURT:** Okay, I'm making the decision on the  
13 record that pursuant to my commission as a Federal judge and  
14 the authority of the U. S. Attorney to bring indictments in  
15 this jurisdiction, that the indictment is a valid indictment  
16 and that the Court has jurisdiction to oversee the prosecution  
17 of that indictment, of the charges in that indictment. I  
18 understand you don't agree with that but that's the Court's  
19 finding. And then as far as legal argument, once the trial's  
20 over, you're free to make that argument, whatever argument you  
21 wish, before the Fifth Circuit of the United States court -- or  
22 the U. S. Supreme Court. Counsel, did you want to --

23          **MS. FENELON:** No.

24          **THE COURT:** Okay, I'm sorry, you just -- so you're  
25 free to make those arguments but I'm making a finding now on

1 the record that this is the case. And, again, I'm not trying  
2 to rush you to trial. I just want to make sure that you have  
3 what you need and so far you haven't told me anything that you  
4 need that you don't already have. I mean, you -- I understand  
5 you disagree with the legal basis for the lawsuit. That's an  
6 argument to be made before the Court. But what evidence are  
7 you looking for from the U. S. Attorney's Office that you want  
8 me to get from them?

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm not sure right now.

10           **THE COURT:** Okay.

11           **THE DEFENDANT:** I'm sorry.

12           **THE COURT:** No, it's no problem. I -- you know,  
13 I'm -- I want to make sure you have everything. So here's what  
14 we're going to have to do. This case has been set for trial on  
15 this date for a long time. We have to go forward on this day.  
16 If there is some document that you find that the Government  
17 didn't provide you that they should have provided you timely,  
18 then you need to make the argument that it wasn't provided to  
19 you timely and then I have to rule on that, whether or not it  
20 was timely provided, whether or not it was relevant to the  
21 charges, and whether or not the case can proceed without  
22 those -- without that information. But I can't do that until  
23 we start trial and find out what it is exactly you're  
24 complaining about.

25           **THE DEFENDANT:** Okay.

1                   **THE COURT:** So respectfully we're going to start  
2 trial on Monday. Mr. Gallagher, you're going to stand by as  
3 advisory counsel --

4                   **MR. GALLAGHER:** Yes, sir.

5                   **THE COURT:** -- in this case. We've got -- oh, is it  
6 a jury trial or a bench trial? Because I've got 37 -- well,  
7 actually 41 jurors set to come in tomorrow -- I mean Monday  
8 morning at 7:30 in the morning.

9                   **THE DEFENDANT:** I would request a bench trial.

10                  **THE COURT:** Okay. So before I honor that request,  
11 you understand that you have a right to a jury trial in this  
12 case.

13                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

14                  **THE COURT:** Okay. And that you are waiving that  
15 right to a jury trial and proceeding with a trial before the  
16 bench.

17                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

18                  **THE COURT:** You understand that, okay. Does any --  
19 as advisory counsel, does any -- or the Government, does anyone  
20 have any reason to believe that a bench trial is not  
21 appropriate in this case?

22                  **MS. FENELON:** Not from the Government, your Honor.

23                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** No, I -- no, your Honor.

24                  **THE COURT:** Okay. Then based on that, Mr. Knowlton,  
25 I will agree to a bench trial in this matter, I'm noting that

1 you're going to have a bench trial. However, in case you  
2 change your mind, I'm going to have the jurors ready to go on  
3 Monday. And then once we start, once you make the decision,  
4 then I'll release those jurors. I mean, I know you made a  
5 decision but --

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir, I understand.

7           **THE COURT:** -- between now and the weekend, if you  
8 want to --

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

10          **THE COURT:** -- think about it, I will let you. You  
11 know, you let me know before you get started. But the -- well,  
12 one second, sorry. I've got to check on something really  
13 quickly. I'll be right back. I need to talk to  
14 (indiscernible) about the case manager about the jury so I'll  
15 be right back.

16          **MARSHAL:** All rise.

17          (**Recess taken from 4:34 p.m. to 4:43 p.m.**)

18          **MARSHAL:** All rise.

19          **THE COURT:** Okay, please be seated, everyone.  
20 (Indiscernible) all approach again. Mr. Knowlton, I -- we're  
21 going to have to make a final decision with respect to a jury  
22 now, and the reason is, is that this jury panel is being drawn  
23 from people from Chambers County all the way down to Matagorda  
24 County, which is, you know, some people are being called about  
25 a hundred miles away from here. And I don't want to have them

1 come down here without, you know, not -- for no reason. So I  
2 need to make sure that right now you understand that you are  
3 waiving your right to a jury trial and it will be a bench trial  
4 and I can release that jury so they don't have to make the  
5 drive down on Monday morning. So --

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir. That will be more  
7 convenient for them.

8           **THE COURT:** Okay. So you understand that you are  
9 waiving your right to a jury trial in this case and proceeding  
10 before the bench.

11           **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

12           **THE COURT:** Okay.

13           **MS. FENELON:** And, your Honor, if I may, in light of  
14 the fact that there isn't going to be a jury that's coming at  
15 7:30 in the morning, can we ask just because of the trial for  
16 ourselves as well if we can maybe have a little bit of a later  
17 start time?

18           **THE COURT:** I was going to suggest the same thing. I  
19 mean, if we had a jury, I think we need to be down here at 8:30  
20 so they can get here before traffic; now we can wait until  
21 after traffic. So what I'd like to do is start the trial at  
22 10:30 on Monday. That makes it easier for everyone, including  
23 Mr. Gallagher and yourself, you don't have to fight the rush  
24 hour traffic. So we'll start at 10:30 Monday morning. Now, we  
25 took a quite break. Are there any other documents? I know

1 that you said you had a list. Are there any other documents  
2 that you can think of right now that you feel that the  
3 Government needs to turn over to you that you don't have? And  
4 I'm -- and this doesn't foreclose you from making the argument  
5 on Monday. You know, if there's other things that you believe  
6 that you should have seen that you're entitled to, I will rule  
7 on that on Monday. But right now, are there any other  
8 documents?

9                   **THE DEFENDANT:** I cannot think of anything, sir.

10                  **THE COURT:** Okay. Any -- since it's now  
11 (indiscernible) bench trial, all I can do at this time is just  
12 tell you to all look carefully at the Court's local rules and  
13 also the Rules of Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure -- I  
14 mean Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Federal Rules of  
15 Evidence. Be sure that you're familiar with them. With  
16 respect to witnesses, if you need some witnesses to appear in  
17 court and you need to issue any sort of subpoenas, you need to  
18 let me know about that as soon as possible because if you wait  
19 until the time of trial and people don't show up, then there's  
20 nothing I can do. Anyone have any specific questions about how  
21 the trial will be conducted or any general questions at all?  
22 First from the Government.

23                  **MS. FENELON:** No, it's a bench trial. I don't think  
24 that that's going to be an issue unless there's any kind of  
25 timing factor that the Court want counsel to be aware of as far

1 as opening or closing or anything like that.

2           **THE COURT:** Okay.

3           **THE DEFENDANT:** This is Friday -- I mean this is  
4 Thursday, correct, sir?

5           **THE COURT:** Yes, sir. And so trial is starting  
6 Monday at 10:30.

7           (**Defendant/Counsel confer**)

8           **THE DEFENDANT:** May I just -- may we step back?

9           **THE COURT:** Oh, sure, sure.

10          **THE DEFENDANT:** Excuse me, sir.

11          (**Defendant/Counsel confer**)

12          (**Judge/Clerk confer**)

13          **MR. GALLAGHER:** Thank you, your Honor.

14          **THE COURT:** Okay. Is there anything you wanted to  
15 ask, sir, or --

16          **THE DEFENDANT:** No, sir.

17          **THE COURT:** Okay. So what I'll do is I'll see you  
18 all back here Monday at 10:30 in the morning. I reviewed the  
19 file. There are no pending motions for the Court to rule on so  
20 we should be able to get started right away. With respect to  
21 timing for opening and closing, how long -- I mean, this is a  
22 bench trial so I'm, you know, we're not worried about a jury.  
23 How long do you each side believe that they need for opening  
24 statements?

25          **MS. FENELON:** Ten minutes is more than adequate for

1 the Government, your Honor, for opening. For closing, at the  
2 most probably 30 minutes.

3           **THE COURT:** Okay. And Mr. Knowlton?

4           **THE DEFENDANT:** Probably the same --

5           **THE COURT:** Okay.

6           **THE DEFENDANT:** -- or less on the closing.

7           **THE COURT:** Okay, so ten minutes for the opening, 30  
8 minutes for the closing for both sides. And if there's some  
9 reason why we need to adjust those times, that's not a problem  
10 either. As I said, we don't have a jury, it's to the bench.  
11 Okay, is there anything else? And basically what I plan to do  
12 is look at the proposed jury charge for the Court's decision in  
13 this case and how to structure that decision. Is there  
14 anything else that you believe that the Court needs to be  
15 looking at?

16           **MS. FENELON:** No, your Honor. We have filed the  
17 proposed jury charge.

18           **THE COURT:** Okay.

19           **MS. FENELON:** And the only other thing that I guess  
20 we can talk about if we're done with the -- once we're done  
21 with the charges, as far as the exhibit list, I did talk with  
22 Mr. Gallagher prior to our pretrial conference. However, in  
23 light of the fact that he is no longer lead counsel and  
24 Mr. Knowlton is representing himself, I don't know where --  
25 what are the positions are in regards to any kind of

1 preadmittance of evidence.

2           **THE COURT:** Okay. Then basically, I mean, you're not  
3 counsel so, --

4           **MR. GALLAGHER:** Right, yeah.

5           **MS. FENELON:** Yeah.

6           **THE COURT:** -- I mean, basically you have to talk to  
7 Mr. Knowlton about whether or not he wants to preadmit exhibits  
8 or not. If you --

9           **THE DEFENDANT:** Usually the requirement is they all  
10 have to be preadmitted --

11          **THE COURT:** No.

12          **THE DEFENDANT:** -- or they don't.

13          **THE COURT:** No, there's no requirement. I mean, what  
14 happens is if they're not preadmitted, then what the Government  
15 and you have to do is basically I call it the old-fashioned  
16 way, --

17          **THE DEFENDANT:** Agree on it.

18          **THE COURT:** -- take a witness, establish your  
19 relevancy, and then basically what I call do-wha (phonetic), do  
20 you know what it is, what is it, how do you know, does it -- if  
21 it's a picture, does it fairly and accurately represent the  
22 scene as it existed on such and such, or that's general. But  
23 then with respect to electronic evidence, there are -- there's  
24 other protocols that have to be followed to get electronic  
25 evidence in. But I can't advise anybody on that. You just --

1                   **THE DEFENDANT:** Understand, I understand.

2                   **THE COURT:** You just have to --

3                   **THE DEFENDANT:** I don't have any electronic evidence  
4 to enter.

5                   **THE COURT:** Okay.

6                   **THE DEFENDANT:** That'll be easy.

7                   **THE COURT:** Okay. Then I think we're all set. So  
8 I'll see you all back here Monday at 10:30.

9                   **MS. FENELON:** Thank you, your Honor.

10                  **MR. GALLAGHER:** Thank you, your Honor.

11                  **THE DEFENDANT:** Yes, sir.

12                  **THE COURT:** Thank you. Take care. You all may be  
13 excused.

14                  **MS. FENELON:** Thank you.

15                  (*This proceeding was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.*)

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni I. Hudson".

January 29, 2020

TONI HUDSON, TRANSCRIBER